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ABSTRACT

A telecommunications system comprises an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network having uncommitted bandwidth, and a plurality of adaptive grooming routers (AGR) coupled to the network. The AGRs
5 comprise a group adapted to function as a virtual transit exchange whose fabric and control are distributed over the group. The virtual comprising the AGRs incorporates independent connection control and call routing functions and has means for determining the current system status whereby to set up narrow band connections across the ATM
10 network based on that status determination.